

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A sheet feeding apparatus comprising:
  - a sheet supporting portion on which a sheet is placed;
  - 5 feeding means, provided above said sheet supporting portion, for coming into and out of contact with the sheet placed on said sheet supporting portion, and for feeding out the sheet;
  - 10 a separating portion for separating the sheet fed out by said feeding means and feeding the sheet one by one;
  - 15 regulating means provided between said separating portion and said feeding means and movable between a regulating position in which said regulating means regulates the sheet placed on said sheet supporting portion coming to said separating portion before a feeding operation by said feeding means and a retracted position in which said regulating means does not hamper the feeding of the sheet during the feeding operation of said feeding means;
  - 20 interlocking means for moving said regulating means to said retracted position in operative association with the movement of said feeding means to a feeding position in which said feeding means is in contact with the sheet when said feeding means feeds out the sheet, and moving said regulating means

to said regulating position in operative association with the movement of said feeding means to a feeding stop position in which said feeding means is out of contact with the sheet; and

5 a movable holding member for holding said  
feeding means for rotation and for bringing said  
feeding means into and out of contact with the sheet,  
wherein said interlocking means includes a  
first link member movable in operative association  
10 with the movement of said holding member, and a  
second link member movable in operative association  
with the movement of said first link member to  
thereby move said regulating means to said regulating  
position or said retracted position.

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2. A sheet feeding apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said first link member or said holding member is provided with a cam shape, and an amount of movement of said regulating means moved through the intermediary of said second link member in accordance with the amount of movement of said holding member is varied by said cam shape.

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3. A sheet feeding apparatus according to Claim  
25 2, further comprising a guide member for guiding the  
sheet fed out by said feeding means, wherein said cam  
shape is such a shape that  $H > h$ , where  $H$  is the

amount of movement of said regulating means until  
said feeding means protrudes downwardly from said  
guide member through said holding member when said  
feeding means feeds out the sheet, and  $h$  is the  
5 amount of movement of said regulating means after  
said feeding means has protruded downwardly from said  
guide member.

4. An image reading apparatus comprising:  
10 image reading means for reading an image of an  
original; and

an original feeder for feeding the original  
from an original supporting portion, on which the  
original is placed, to said image reading means,  
15 wherein said original feeder comprising:

feeding means, provided above said  
original supporting portion, for coming into and out  
of contact with the original placed on said original  
supporting portion and for feeding out the original;  
20 a separating portion for separating the  
original fed out by said feeding means and feeding  
the original one by one to said image reading means;  
regulating means provided between said  
separating portion and said feeding means and movable  
25 between a regulating position in which said  
regulating means regulates the original placed on  
said original supporting portion coming to said

separating portion before a feeding operation by said feeding means and a retracted position in which said regulating means does not hamper the feeding of the original during the feeding operation of said feeding  
5 means;

interlocking means for moving said regulating means to said retracted position in operative association with the movement of said feeding means to a feeding position in which said feeding means is in contact with the original when  
10 said feeding means feeds out the original, and moving said regulating means to said regulating position in operative association with the movement of said feeding means to a feeding stop position in which  
15 said feeding means is out of contact with the original; and

a movable holding member for holding said feeding means for rotation and for bringing said feeding means into and out of contact with the  
20 original,

wherein said interlocking means includes a first link member movable in operative association with the movement of said holding member, and a second link member movable in operative association  
25 with the movement of said first link member to thereby move said regulating means to said regulating position or said retracted position.

5. An image reading apparatus according to  
Claim 4, wherein said first link member or said  
holding member is provided with a cam shape, and an  
amount of movement of said regulating means moved  
5 through the intermediary of said second link member  
in accordance with the amount of movement of said  
holding member is varied by said cam shape.

6. An image reading apparatus according to  
10 Claim 5, further comprising a guide member provided  
above said original supporting portion and below said  
feeding means located at said feeding stop position  
for guiding the original fed out by said feeding  
means, wherein said cam shape is such a shape that  $H > h$ , where H is the amount of movement of said  
15 regulating means until said feeding means protrudes  
downwardly from said guide member through said  
holding member when said feeding means feeds out the  
original, and h is the amount of movement of said  
regulating means after said feeding means has  
20 protruded downwardly from said guide member.

7. An image reading apparatus according to  
Claim 6, further comprising an openable and closable  
25 cover having said guide member provided on an  
underside of said openable and closable cover,  
wherein said first link member and said second link

member are movably mounted on said openable and closable cover, and with an opening operation of said openable and closable cover, said regulating means is moved to said retracted position together with said 5 second link member.

8. An image reading apparatus according to  
Claim 7, wherein said second link member is provided  
with a restraining portion for restraining said  
10 holding member to thereby regulate the downward  
movement of said holding member when said openable  
and closable cover is opened.

9. An image reading apparatus according to  
15 Claim 7, wherein said openable and closable cover  
opens said separating portion.

10. An image forming apparatus comprising:  
an image reading apparatus as recited in any  
20 one of claims 4 to 9; and  
an image forming portion for forming an image  
on the basis of image information read by said image  
reading apparatus.